Maoist insurgency in Nepal

186. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any offer for help from the Chinese authorities to control the Maoist Insurgency in Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E.AHAMMED): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Non-returns of athletes participating in International meets

187. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many athletes who went abroad particularly to USA and Canada in the past did not return after participating in international meets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to bring them back; and

(d) steps proposed to be taken to ensure that players sponsored to be participating in games abroad do return in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) Ministry of External Affairs is in the process of obtaining the relevant information from the concerned Ministries/Departments and the same will be placed on the Table of the House.

Vote against Iran on Nuclear issue

188. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to make a reversal of Iran vote;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to Iran vote the relationship between India and Iran has suffered badly; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to normalise the relationship between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors has been discussing the issue of Iran's nuclear programme, its compliance with its NPT obligations and its Safeguard Agreement for more than two years. At its meeting held from September 19-24, 2005, the IAEA Board adopted a resolution on the subject by a vote of 22 votes in favour, 1 against and 12 abstentions. India voted for the resolution. The resolution requests Director General (DG), IAEA to *inter-alia* report again to the Board on the implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement in Iran. The issue will be discussed further at the meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors commencing from November 24, 2005. India is carefully monitoring the evolving situation. Government will take a decision based on a careful assessment of the situation, the report of the DG, IAEA, keeping in view India's national interests.

(c) and (d) India attaches importance to maintaining traditionally close relations with Iran. Former External Affairs Minister met the Iranian Vice President Parviz Dawoodi on 26 October 2005 in Moscow on the sidelines of the summit meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. The Iranian Vice President conveyed that Iran attached great importance not just to economic cooperation between India and Iran but also to the civilisational and cultural links that bind the two countries together. India and Iran have long-standing and extensive cooperation, which is of the benefit to and in the interest of both countries.

Permanent seat in Security Council

189. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of an editorial in a leading newspaper